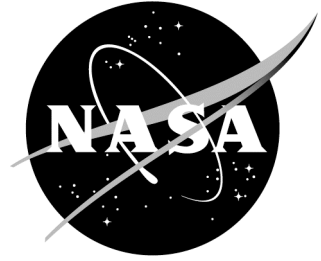


NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and
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NO MID-DAY BRIEFING ON COLUMBIA INVESTIGATION TODAY

The memorial service honoring the crew of space shuttle Columbia will take precedence over investigation briefings this morning. President Bush will join Administrator O'Keefe and the NASA family this afternoon in Houston to remember those lost and offer support to their families.

Local reporters who wish to cover the memorial can view the service at the Virginia Air and Space Center where it will be simulcast from Johnson Space Center at 1 p.m.

The Virginia Air and Space Center will be open to the public free of charge to enable area citizens to participate in the remembrance.

Today's Shuttle Mishap News Conference will originate from NASA Headquarters at 4:30 p.m. Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight Michael C. Kostelnik will preside. The 4:30 briefing will be carried live on NASA TV and will also be broadcast in the NASA Langley Research Center newsroom.

Reporters who wish to participate in the 4:30 briefing should call Margarette Pitts at 864-6124 to arrange for credentials and an escort to the newsroom.

NASA TV is on AMC-2, Transponder 9C, vertical polarization at 85 degrees west longitude, 3880 MHz, with audio at 6.8 MHz.

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